

LV.—*Another new Species of Scorpion from Madagascar.*
By R. I. POCK, of the British Museum (Natural History).

TOWARDS the beginning of April, and too late to receive notice in my paper on Buthidæ for the 'Annals' of that month, Mr. Ransome, to whom we owe the discovery of that interesting new scorpion, *Buthus piceus*, brought to the Natural-History Museum a third specimen of *Buthus* from Madagascar, of which, since it is new and of special interest, I publish the following description:—

Buthus lobidens, sp. n.

Colour.—Trunk above dull, pitchy; legs, palpi, and vesicle paler; chelicerae, abdominal sternites, and coxæ paler than upper surface of trunk, and shining.

Cephalothorax without trace of keels, almost wholly covered with granules; anterior border lightly sinuate and furnished with a series of somewhat larger granules; median eyes large, situated well in the anterior half of the cephalothorax; ocular tubercle deeply cleft, finely granular on each side of the cleft; the posterior median and lateral sulci well marked, but less well marked than in *B. piceus*.

Tergites covered with granules, which are coarser behind than in front; the first six furnished behind with a single small median keel; the seventh furnished behind on each side with two granular keels, which do not unite in front, but attain the posterior margin behind.

Sternites, except the last, which is obsoletely serially granular behind, smooth. *Stigmata* slit-like; the anterior border of the aperture normal; posterior border incomplete, not sharply compressed, as is the anterior border.

Tail very slightly thinner at the apex than at the base; first segment furnished with ten granular keels, intercarinal spaces sparsely granular, shallowly excavated above; posterior granule of superior keels the largest; second segment furnished with eight keels, the median lateral keel being represented by a few granules only in the posterior half of the segment; intercarinal spaces more sparsely granular than those of the first segment; slightly more deeply excavated above than is the first segment; as in the first and the succeeding segments, except the fifth, the posterior granule of the superior keels is the largest; third segment differing from the second as the second does from the first, except that there

is no trace of the median lateral keel and the inferior median keels show a slight tendency to fail posteriorly; fourth segment differing from the third as the third does from the second; the inferior median keels entirely breaking up behind into irregularly arranged granules; upper surface of fifth segment in front with a narrow median depression, which widens behind; bounded laterally by granules; lateral surface beset with smaller and a few larger granules; inferior surface bounded laterally by evenly granular keels, furnished with a median granular keel and beset with larger and smaller granules; vesicle below and at the sides sparsely granular and scantily hairy; aculeus slightly curved.

Palp.—Under surface smooth; humerus furnished above with two granular keels, in front with some larger scattered granules and below in front with a granular keel; brachium with a single short series of granules above and some larger granules in front; hand smooth, without keels, as thick as brachium; fingers slightly curved and simple, *i. e.* without lobe and excavation; hand-back shorter than the immovable dactylus, about two thirds the length of the movable dactylus. Femora of the legs externally thickly granular, coxæ almost smooth.

Legs and palpi more or less hairy.

Pectines short, scarcely two thirds the length of the cephalothorax, furnished with sixteen teeth; the basal tooth very large, lobate, resembling that of *B. piceus*, but a little more circular in form.

Measurements in millimetres.—Total length 66; length of cephalothorax $7\frac{1}{4}$, width 8; distance of eyes from posterior margin $4\frac{1}{2}$; length of tail $39\frac{1}{2}$, of first two segments 10; length of first $4\frac{1}{2}$, width 4; length of fifth $7\frac{1}{2}$, width $3\frac{1}{4}$; length of vesicle $5\frac{1}{2}$, width $3\frac{1}{4}$, height $3\frac{1}{2}$; length of aculeus $3\frac{1}{2}$; length of humerus $6\frac{1}{2}$, of brachium $7\frac{1}{2}$; width of brachium and of hand $3\frac{1}{6}$; length of "hand-back" 5, of movable finger $7\frac{3}{4}$, of immovable finger $6\frac{3}{4}$, of pecten (not including apical tooth) $4\frac{1}{2}$.

A single female specimen from Antongil Bay, Madagascar, collected and presented to the British Museum by Mr. Lewis H. Ransome.

This species is obviously closely allied to *B. piceus* (Pocock, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) iii. p. 349, pl. xv. fig. 8), but may be separated from it by the following characters:—the tail is much more slender and a little longer; the dactyli are longer; there is no large tubercle beneath the aculeus of the caudal vesicle; the stigmata are not ovate.

The specimen here described was taken at a distance of about 30 miles from the spot where *B. piceus* was found, and at first sight, owing to the greater slenderness of its tail and greater length of its dactyli, appeared to be merely the male of that species. But further examination showed that the basal pectinal tooth is considerably the largest of the series, a character which there are good reasons for supposing belongs to the female alone. But even if this be not the case, there exists between the two forms one other difference which, so far as one's experience at present goes, does not fall within the limits of sexual variation. This difference is to be found in the form of the pulmonary stigmata. These apertures in *B. piceus* are ovate; but in *B. lobidens* they are more slit-like and furnish to a certain extent a link between the ovate form of *B. piceus* and the slit-like form found in most other Scorpions. This circumstance justifies the retention of *piceus* in the genus *Buthus*.

LVI.—*The Staphylinidæ of Japan.*

By Dr. D. SHARP.

[Concluded from p. 419.]

Group PIESTINA.

Siagonium nobile, n. sp.

Angustum, subdepressum, piceum; antennarum basi pedibusque rufis; clytris vage rufescentibus, irregulariter punctatis; thorace medio profunde longitudinaliter impresso.

Long. 5 millim.

Antennæ rather stout, moderately long, with scanty hairs. Mandibles porrect, elongate. Head broad, excavate, produced on each side in front so as to form two porrect, acuminate, slightly convergent processes; rather sparingly punctate. Thorax transverse, strongly constricted behind; hind angles rectangular, sparingly punctate, with a very large depression on each side and with an elongate deep depression on the middle. Elytra reddish, black to a greater or less extent behind the scutellum, irregularly, rather sparingly punctate, and longitudinally depressed towards each side. Hind body red at the extremity.

Nikko and Miyanoshta; six specimens.